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## CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ WAIVER REQUEST  
☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST

DATE: 9/1/2020  
DOCKET #:

### FILER INFORMATION

Name: Melissa Gueldner  
Office: Council Member, District A, City of Ponchatoula  
Parish: TANGIPAHOA  
Election Date: 10/12/2019  
Level of Office: Any

### REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: SUPP2019  
Original Due Date: 2/18/2020  
Date Filed: 2/25/2020  
Activity Receipts: \$-0  
Expenditures: \$-0  
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$15.35

### LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$280  
Days Late: 7  
Late Fee Order Received: 5/15/2020  
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 6/4/2020  
Waiver Request Received: 5/27/2020  
Additional Information Requested:

- Medical
- Financial
- Other

COMMENTS: Marice Scheibengraber with James Lambert Riggs & Assoc, Inc. CPA request a waiver on behalf Melissa Gueldner and states the following: The report was prepared and completed on February 14, 2020 in the Leaders Online program. That same day she submitted the report, unfortunately there was an issue in our office with a few brief electrical power outages, causing a glitch and the report did not process electronically. I neglected to notice that I did not receive a receipt from your office that the report had processed. Melissa Gueldner received written notification from your office on February 25, 2020. She immediately logged into the Leaders Online Program to verify that it had not been received. She then filed the Report in Leaders Online and receive notification that it was received in your office that same day.

### OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

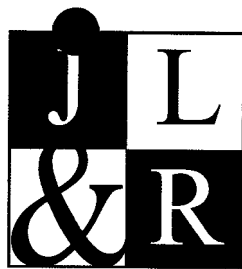
Other Outstanding Reports: No  
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: No  
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: No

Dennis E. James, CPA  
Lyle E. Lambert, CPA  
Paul M. Riggs, Jr., CPA  
J. Bryan Ehricht, CPA

Megan E. Lynch, CPA  
B. Jacob Steib, CPA  
Christie J. Barado  
Connor J. Collura  
Sharon B. Bravata  
Krystal L. Waddell  
Jenny I. Schliegmeyer  
Debbie G. Faust, EA



JAMES  
LAMBERT RIGGS  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

www.jlrcpafirm.com

May 19, 2020

CPA  
Member of  
American Institute of CPAs  
Society of Louisiana CPAs

Ms. Melissa Horn  
Louisiana Board of Ethics  
Post Office Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: Melissa Gueldner 2019 Supplemental Report

Dear Ms. Horn:

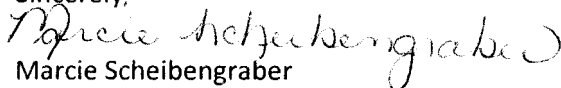
We are respectfully requesting that the Louisiana Board of Ethics will consider this request to waive the late fees that have been assessed to Melissa Gueldner due to the 2019 Supplemental Report being received by your office 7 days late. The report was prepared and completed on February 14, 2020 in the Leaders Online program. That same day I submitted the report, unfortunately there was an issue in our office with a few brief electrical power outages, causing a glitch and the report did not process electronically. I neglected to notice that I did not receive a receipt from your office that the report had processed.

Melissa Gueldner received written notification from your office on February 25, 2020 stating that the 2019 Supplemental Report had not been received. I immediately logged into the Leaders Online Program to verify that it had not been received. I then filed the Report in Leaders Online and received notification that it was received in your office that same day.

While I am aware that the Supplemental Report was received by the Louisiana Board of Ethics 7 days late, I am asking that the Board of Ethics would waive the assessment of the late fees. As you can see in your records Melissa Gueldner's previous reports have all been filed either early or on the due date. The intent with this Supplemental Report was to have filed it on February 14, 2020 which would have been 4 days early, had we not experienced the power outages that day, the report would have filed timely.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Marcie Scheibengraber  
Administrative Assistant

Cc: Melissa Gueldner

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ETHICS BOARD REC'D  
MAY 27 2020

P.O. Drawer 369 • Hammond, Louisiana 70404 • 985.345.6262 • Fax: 985.345.9987

**STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
acting in its capacity as the  
**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

**In Re:       Melissa Gueldner**  
**October 12, 2019 Election**

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Melissa Gueldner, in her capacity as a candidate for Council Member, District A, City of Ponchatoula in the October 12, 2019 election was required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.


**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4D, Melissa Gueldner was required to file a Supplemental Report by February 18, 2020. Melissa Gueldner filed the report on February 25, 2020 and was 7 days late.

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(iii) provides that an automatic late fee of \$40 per day (not to exceed \$1,000) be assessed against Melissa Gueldner for this late filing.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$280 is assessed against Melissa Gueldner for failure to timely file her campaign finance disclosure report.

**ORDER** signed on the 11th day of May 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division



LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

P. O. BOX 4368  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821  
(225) 219-5600  
FAX (225) 381-7271  
1-800-842-6030  
www.ethics.la.gov

May 11, 2020

Ms. Melissa Gueldner  
333 N. Seventh St.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454-3207

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70191640000163300487

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Late fee assessment for the October 12, 2019 Election  
2019 Supplemental Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 7 days late

Dear Ms. Gueldner:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$280 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal the assessment directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. **Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment.** If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not pay or dispute the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

*You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.*

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Melissa Horn



JAMES  
LAMBERT RIGGS  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
[www.jlrpafirm.com](http://www.jlrpafirm.com)

P.O. Drawer 369 • Hammond, Louisiana 70404

NEW ORLEANS



7019 1120 0001 1065 3278

Ms. Melissa Horn  
Louisiana Board of Ethics  
Post Office Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

70821-4368

